

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher according to claim ~~[[11]]~~13, wherein ~~[[the]]~~at least one filling level sensor is in the form of a capacitor whose electrical capacitance varies depending on the dielectric constant of the medium surrounding the filling level sensor.

13. (Currently Amended) A dishwasher comprising:
at least one washing container for receiving items to be handled, with the items to be
handled being subjected to an operative handling cycle including at least one of a
washing step, a rinsing step and a drying step wherein the washing step includes
introduction of a cleaning agent and a fluid carrier forming a washing fluid and the
rinsing step includes introduction of a rinsing fluid; and
a system for recognition of the fluid level of the rinsing fluid contained in the dishwasher,
the fluid level recognition system having at least one capacitive filling level sensor
having at least two probes, forming two capacitor plates, each operatively coupled to a
sensor surface and projecting into the washing container for operative contact with the
rinsing fluid, thereby using the rinsing fluid as a dielectric having a dielectric constant
that changes with the fill level of the rinsing fluid, wherein at a first fill level the probes
and the rinsing fluid form a capacitor having a first capacitance value indicating a first fill
level and causing the filling level sensor to sense the first fill level and at a second fill
level the probes and the rinsing fluid form a capacitor having a second capacitance value
indicating a second fill level and causing the filling level sensor to sense the second fill
levelThe dishwasher according to claim 14, wherein at least two filling level sensors are

provided between which an electrical circuit ~~preferably~~ closes at low current as soon as the filling level sensors simultaneously come in contact with the rinsing fluid.

14. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher according to claim ~~[[11]]~~13, wherein the system for recognition of filling level comprises electronic means which ~~preferably~~ qualitatively and quantitatively detect the electrical capacitance or the electrical conductivity of the filling level sensor and its variation.

15. (Currently Amended) A dishwasher comprising:
at least one washing container for receiving items to be handled, with the items to be handled being subjected to an operative handling cycle including at least one of a washing step, a rinsing step and a drying step wherein the washing step includes introduction of a cleaning agent and a fluid carrier forming a washing fluid and the rinsing step includes introduction of a rinsing fluid; and
a system for recognition of the fluid level of the rinsing fluid contained in the dishwasher, the fluid level recognition system having at least one capacitive filling level sensor having at least two probes, forming two capacitor plate, each operatively coupled to a sensor surface and projecting into the washing container for operative contact with the rinsing fluid, thereby using the rinsing fluid as a dielectric having a dielectric constant that changes with the fill level of the rinsing fluid, wherein at a first fill level the probes and the rinsing fluid form a capacitor having a first capacitance value indicating a first fill level and causing the filling level sensor to sense the first fill level and at a second fill level the probes and the rinsing fluid form a capacitor having a second capacitance value indicating a second fill level and causing the filling level sensor to sense the second fill level]~~The dishwasher according to claim 14~~, wherein the system for recognition of filling level comprises a number of capacitive filling level sensors which are ~~preferably~~ arranged at the height of specific fluid levels on the washing container.

16. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher according to claim 11~~13~~, wherein at least one filling level sensor is arranged in ~~[[the]]~~a base assembly in such a manner that rinsing fluid that has flowed from the washing container into the base assembly can be detected.

17. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher according to claim ~~[[11]]~~13, wherein the system for recognition of filling level comprises a filling level sensor by which means at least two different fluid levels can be determined.

18. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher according to claim ~~[[11]]~~13, wherein ~~[[the]]~~at least one filling level sensor has an extended, ~~preferably~~substantially rectangular shape.

19. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher according to claim ~~[[11]]~~13, wherein ~~[[the]]~~at least one filling level sensor is located inside the washing container ~~preferably~~at a position protected from spray water.

20. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher according to claim ~~[[11]]~~13, wherein a fixing side of ~~[[the]]~~at least one filling level sensor is provided with a self-adhesive layer.

21. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 15, wherein at least one filling level sensor is in the form of a capacitor whose electrical capacitance varies depending on the dielectric constant of the medium surrounding the filling level sensor.

22. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 15, wherein the system for recognition of filling level comprises electronic means which qualitatively and quantitatively detect the electrical capacitance or the electrical conductivity of the filling level sensor and its variation.

23. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 15, wherein at least one filling level sensor is arranged in a base assembly in such a manner that rinsing fluid that has flowed from the washing container into the base assembly can be detected.
24. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 15, wherein the system for recognition of filling level comprises a filling level sensor by which means at least two different fluid levels can be determined.
25. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 15, wherein at least one filling level sensor has an extended, substantially rectangular shape.
26. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 15, wherein at least one filling level sensor is located inside the washing container at a position protected from spray water.
27. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 15, wherein a fixing side of at least one filling level sensor is provided with a self-adhesive layer.